

Health Sciences & Medicine



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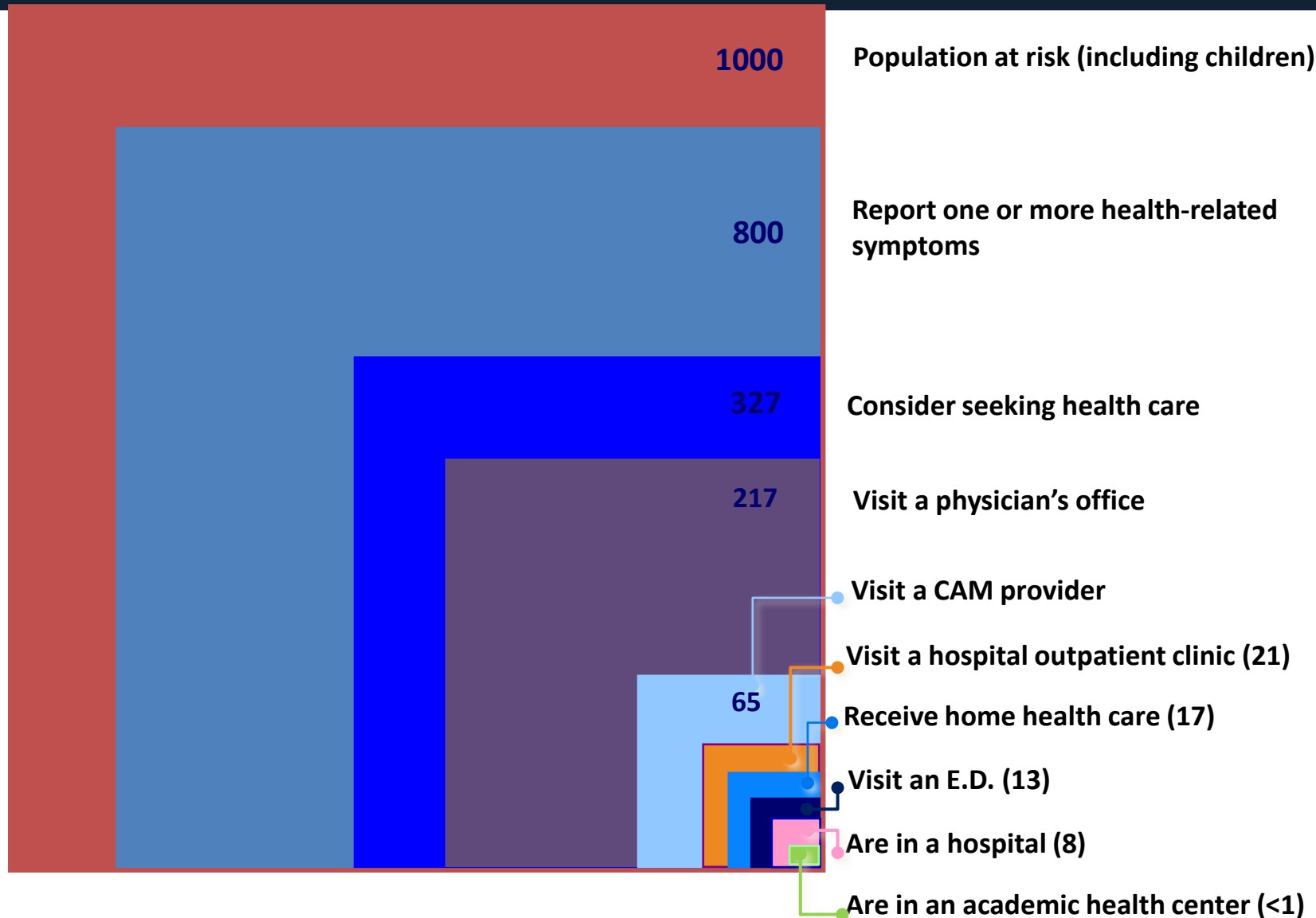
Introduction to Practice-Based Research Networks

Nick Zwar



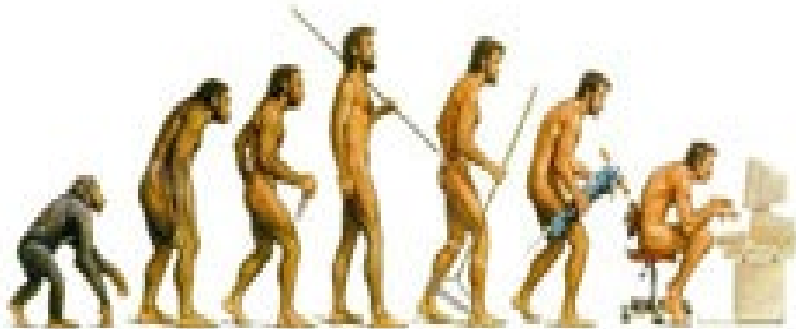
Kerr White's Boxes Revisited: Primary Care Ecology

(LGreen et al. NEJM 2001;344:2021-25)



Research in primary health care is important but there is not enough done

- Primary care research seeks to answer questions of immediate relevance to the health of the community.
- It has been described as “the missing link in the development of high-quality, evidence-based health care for populations”



Challenges faced in primary care research

- Primary health care practitioners are challenged in terms of time and context
- There has been a lack of a sufficient skilled primary health care research workforce
- Only a small proportion of health research funding goes into primary health care projects – less than 3% of NHMRC funding

Challenges faced in primary care research

- Primary care research has been criticised for the lack of intervention studies and the preponderance of small scale, descriptive and survey-based studies with poor response rates.
- It is difficult to conduct larger scale clinical, epidemiological and health services research in primary care.
- One of the barriers is the lack of structures to support research in general practice.

What are Practice-based Research Networks (PBRNs)?



PBRNs provide a setting and organisational structure to facilitate research in general practice and to address questions relevant to primary care practitioners.

“sustained collaborations between practitioners and academicians dedicated to developing relevant research questions, working together on study design and conduct, and translating new knowledge into practice”

Pearce K, et al. (2004). How and Why to Study the Practice Content of a Practice-Based Research Network. Annals of Family Medicine, 2(5), 425-428.

- Sentinel monitoring
- Counting and characterising clinical encounters
- Understanding primary care encounters ('black box')
- Comparing approaches to manage patients (quality, effectiveness, continuity)
- Modifying practice/clinician behaviours
- Conducting clinical trials (pragmatic)
- Comparing approaches to deliver services in the practice (skill mix, etc.)
- Outcomes research

- **Medical Research Council General Practice Research Framework**

Long established national network of practices with trained research nurses.

- **Scottish Practices and Professionals Involved in Research (SPPIRe)**

This is a national network coordinated by the Scottish School of Primary Care.

- Victorian primary care practice-based Research and Education Network (VicREN) University of Melbourne
- Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN) – University of Wollongong
- Monash Practice-Based Research Network (MonReN) Monash University

Description

- 57 GPs from 53 general practices
- Date established – 2007
- Member professions
 - General Practitioners
 - General Practice Registrars



Examples of Projects

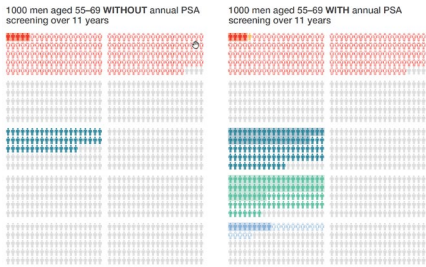
- GP asthma incentive study
- GP network member demographic study
- Stroke prevention study development
- Case finding of COPD by practice nurses
- Sleep apnoea diagnosis in general practice study
- Teamlink study
- Weight management in general practice study
- Use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents' study

1. Overdiagnosis & overtreatment



Should I have prostate cancer screening?

Figure 1. Risks and benefits of PSA screening
Adapted with permission from Harding Center for Risk Literacy



41% prostate cancer overdiagnosed

= 8,000 men/year; Surgery (\$20K+), > \$160M / year

Lifetime risk of prostate cancer overdiagnosis in Australia: quantifying the risk of overdiagnosis associated with prostate cancer screening in Australia using a novel lifetime risk approach @

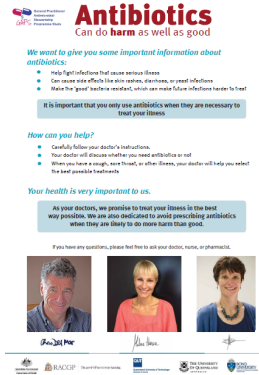
Thanya Pathirana^{1, 2}, Andrew Hayden³, Jenny Doust¹, Paul Glasziou¹, Katy Bell^{1, 4}

BMJ Open, 2019

2. Antibiotic resistance



access to near patient testing with C-reactive protein (CRP)



Practice poster

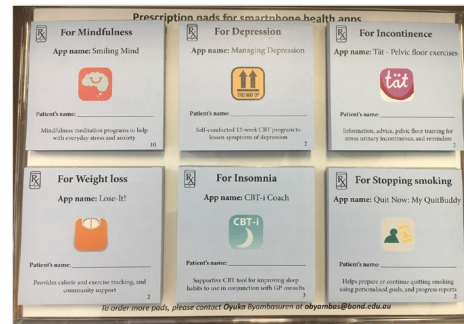
3. Non-Drug Interventions



Education Clinical resources Running a practice Advocacy News

Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions (HANDI)

- Founded 2013
- Around 70 entries
- Now >100,000 downloads/yr



“App” prescription study

4. Reducing Waste/Adding value in Research



ICASR Reduce time from 2 years to 2 weeks

International Collaboration for the Automation of Systematic Reviews

1. Do increased fluids reduce recurrent urinary tract infections?
2. The effect of self-management on lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) in men.

Paul Glasziou

Anthea Blower

CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS

Impact and influence of Practice Managers and Practice Nurses
in general practice research

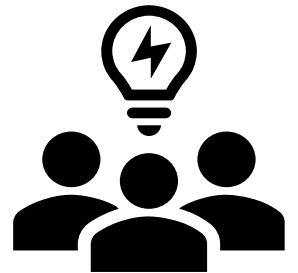
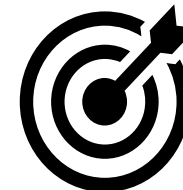
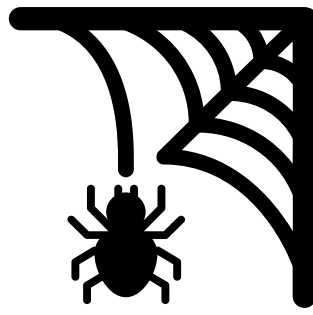
- We can be the foundation – we know how to underpin the design of an effective project
- We know the intricate choreography – we drive the team through the steps with planning
- We know the routine – we implement a project within current workflows
- We shake the pom poms – or the participants
- We shout the successes – remind and practice
- We carry the losses – we support through system review and team encouragement
- We applaud the wins – we highlight the successes



GPs, Registrars, Students, and RACGP

Jane Smith

- **Journal clubs**
- **Research projects**
- **RACGP funding**
- **Share/spread your ideas**



Using GP data for GPs



**PRIMARY
SENSE**

Mark Morgan

Medication Governance

Decision support

Knowing your population

Targeting gaps in care

Business sustainability

Research recruitment

Research evaluation

Continuous Quality Improvement

Identifying systems-wide safety and outcomes



Kat McLean



Like · Reply · 2y



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Kat McLean Michael Tam out of interest how is the survey going?

Thank you to all that have participated - paving the way for GP led research relevant to clinical practice - via GPDU! 🙌💖

Like · Reply · 2y

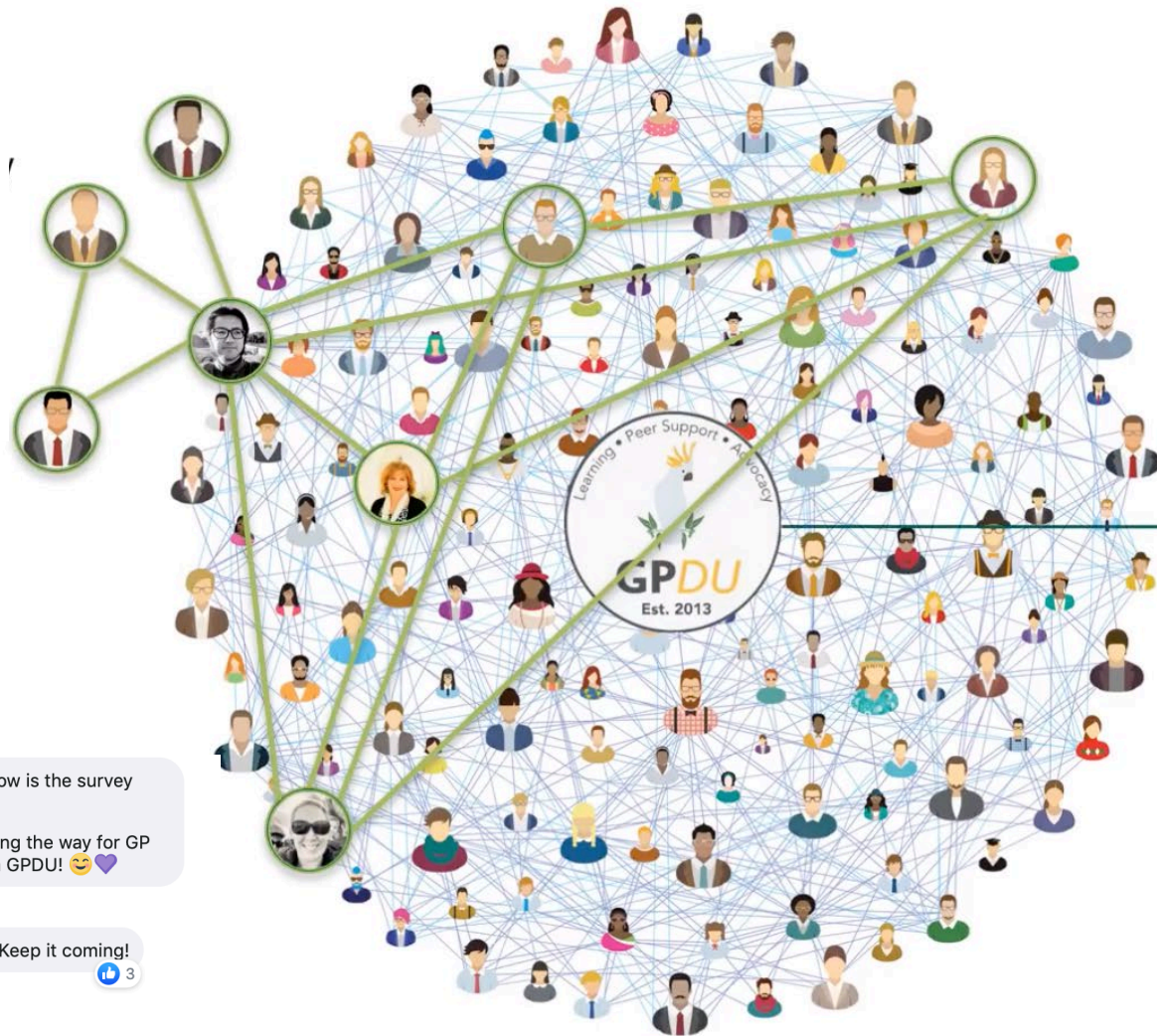


Michael Tam About 150 respondents so far! Keep it coming!

Like · Reply · 2y



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Michael Tam is 🥳 feeling excited with Karen Price and 3 others.

July 5, 2017

How do doctors interpret p-values? (HC17503) - GPDU Research First!!

Dear friends and colleagues!

We invite you to participate in the first GPDU research project!

This is an anonymous online questionnaire that aims to describe and categorise how an experienced clinician like you conceptualise and understand p-values.

GPDU member, Michael Tam from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Sydney, is the chief investigator.

The following GPDU moderators are co-investigators: Karen Price, Kat McLean, Tim Leeuwenburg, and Nicole Higgins.

We hope that the results of this study will help inform how to better teach research skills and statistics to clinicians.

Participants can choose to enter a draw, with a DermaLite DL 100 dermatoscope as the prize!

Please participate! Click the link below to go to the questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HC17503>

A PDF copy of the participant information sheet can be downloaded from:

<http://tiny.cc/hc17503>



Katrina McLean



David Janusz Chessor

May 17



An earnest (and not at all desperate) plea to help my medical student Rory with his research project!

<http://bit.ly/GPsTxCOsurvey>

He is surveying GPs regarding their knowledge of, and attitudes toward, treatment for childhood obesity.

It will take about 8 minutes of your time. Actually 8, not 8 that turns into 30, I promise.

Fourth year UNSW med students have to complete a year long research project, and it is really very rare for students to choose any kind of primary care research, so a few minutes of time to try and get a good number of responses for him would be wonderful.

So far he has contacted about 100 GP clinics for 7 responses and I have a feeling GPDU might be a much more effective place to find willing GPs.

Thanks GPDU!!!!

(This research has been granted ethics approval by the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee)



David Janusz Chessor Thanks so much to the GPDU hive!!! Over 150 responses in a couple of days. Rory's about halfway to his goal for responses so if anyone else can spare a few minutes that would be great 🙏

Love · Reply · 21w



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David Janusz Chessor Louise Stone definitely, that problem well and truly solved now though! Amazing what a group like GPDU can do for a med student and novice researcher at a rural clinical school trying to survey doctors around the country!

Love · Reply · 20w · Edited



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